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CLAIMS

1. A printer/powered peripheral node (P/PPN) system, comprising:
 - a housing configured to house a printer and at least one additional peripheral device; and,
 - 5 a powered peripheral node (PPN), further comprising:
 - a data connection enabling data communication with the printer and the at least one additional peripheral device; and,
 - a power supply configured to provide power to the printer and the at least one additional peripheral device;
- 10 whereby, the at least one additional peripheral device can be located at a location of the printer and share the power supply and the data connection with the printer.
2. A printer/powered peripheral node module as in claim 1, further comprising a bay carried by the housing, the bay configured to receive the at least one additional a peripheral device.
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3. A printer/powered peripheral node system as in claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a plurality of housing portions, a first portion of which is a printer housing portion configured to enclose the printer, and a second portion of which is a peripheral module portion configured to enclose the at least one additional peripheral device, said peripheral module portion being configured to attach to a side of the printer housing portion.
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4. A printer/powered peripheral node system as in claim 3, wherein the peripheral module portion is configured to attach to a bottom side of the printer housing portion, and reside underneath the printer.
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5. A printer/powered peripheral node system as in claim 3, wherein the peripheral module portion is configured to attach to the printer housing portion by replacing an auxiliary paper tray of the printer.
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6. A printer/powered peripheral node system as in claim 5, further comprising at least one connector configured for making power and data communication connections between the peripheral module portion and the printer housing portion when the module is inserted into an auxiliary paper tray slot.

7. A printer/powered peripheral node system as in claim 3, wherein the peripheral module portion is configured to be connectable to another attachable module portion that includes power and data connections to the printer; whereby a plurality of the peripheral module portions can be attached to the printer housing portion.

8. A printer/powered peripheral node system as in claim 7, wherein each of the peripheral module portions is configured to carry at least one peripheral device, whereby a plurality of the peripheral devices can be added and deleted from connection to the printer housing portion by adding and deleting the peripheral module portions.

9. A printer/powered peripheral node system as in claim 2, wherein the bay is configured to slidably receive a swappable peripheral device, and further comprising power and data connections configured to make data and power connections to the swappable peripheral device when it is inserted into the bay.

10. A printer/powered peripheral node system as in claim 1, further comprising a wireless data connection device, whereby the P/PPN can data communicate wirelessly with a remote device.

20 11. A printer/powered peripheral node system as in claim 1, further comprising a key which can allow or not allow connection of the additional peripheral device.

12. A printer/powered peripheral node system as in claim 11, wherein the key comprises 25 one of a physical key and an electronic key.

13. A printer/powered peripheral node system, comprising:
a printer configured to be connectable to an attachable module, the attachable module being configured to carry a peripheral device;

30 a shared data bus connection facilitating data communication with the printer and said peripheral device via the connection; and

a shared power connection facilitating supply of power to the printer and to said peripheral device carried by the module.

14. A printer/powered peripheral node system as in claim 13, the attachable module further comprising a bay configured to receive the peripheral device.
- 5 15. A printer/powered peripheral node system as in claim 13, wherein the system is configured such that the attachable module can attach to a side of the printer.
16. A printer/powered peripheral node system as in claim 15, wherein the attachable module is configured to attach to a bottom side of, and reside underneath, the printer.
- 10 17. A printer/powered peripheral node system as in claim 13, wherein the attachable module is configured to attach to the printer by replacing an auxiliary paper tray of the printer.
- 15 18. A printer/powered peripheral node system as in claim 17, further comprising connectors configured for making power and data signal connections when the attachable module is inserted in an auxiliary paper tray slot.
- 20 19. A printer/powered peripheral node system as in claim 13, wherein the attachable module is configured to be connectable to another attachable module, and further comprises power and data connections whereby a plurality of the attachable modules can be attached to the printer.
- 25 20. A printer/powered peripheral node system as in claim 19, wherein each of the attachable modules is configured to carry at least one of the peripheral devices, whereby the peripheral devices can be added to and deleted from connection to the printer by adding and deleting the attachable modules.
- 30 21. A printer/powered peripheral node module system as in claim 13, wherein the attachable module is configured to slidably receive a swappable peripheral device, and further comprising power and data connections configured to connect the swappable peripheral device when it is inserted into the attachable module.

22. A printer/powered peripheral node system, comprising

a printer configured to be connectable to a peripheral device so that said peripheral device resides within a housing which is one of: a) attached to, and b) enclosing, the printer;

a data bus connection configured to facilitate data communication to and from the

5 printer and to and from said peripheral device and one of: a) a PC, b) a server, and, c) a network; and

a power connection configured to facilitate power supply to the printer and to said peripheral device.

10 23. A printer/ powered peripheral node system as in claim 22, wherein the power supply is housed with the printer and is configured to provide power to the printer and to said peripheral device.

15 24. A printer/ powered peripheral node system as in claim 22, further comprising a key configured to facilitate connection of compatible devices and de-facilitate connection of incompatible devices.

20 25. A printer/ powered peripheral node system as in claim 24, wherein the key is physical and comprises a physical compatibility including at least one of: electrical connector shape, housing connector shape, housing shape, electrical connector location, and housing connector location.

25 26. A printer/ powered peripheral node system as in claim 24, wherein the key comprises an electronic key.

27. A printer/ powered peripheral node system as in claim 26, wherein the electronic key comprises at least one of an electronic identification code, a power supply compatibility, a communications protocol compatibility, an identification signal, a software negotiation, a firmware recognition routine, a hardware recognition system, a circuit that enables a determination of whether a connection is one of: a) an allowed; and, b) a disallowed connection, based on a predetermined criteria.

28. A method enabling provision of at least one additional peripheral device at a printer location, comprising:

providing and configuring a power supply to provide power to the printer and the at least one additional peripheral device;

providing and configuring a data connection to enable data communication with the printer and the at least one additional peripheral device;

5 providing at least one housing enabling the printer and the at least one additional peripheral device to be carried within a common housing footprint.

29. A method as set forth in claim 28, further comprising a wireless data connection between the printer location, and one of a) another device; b) a PC; c) a server; and, d) a
10 network.